

The Anti-Slavery Reporter

and

Aborigines' Friend.

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Quarterly Notes.

BEFORE this issue of the *Reporter* appears in print, it is **Mr. and Mrs. Harris'** hoped that our Organising Secretaries will be nearing this **Journey.** country, if they have not already reached home in safety, after their eventful African journeys. Their plans, after leaving the Congo, included a visit to Angola, where they hoped to spend at least a week or two at Loanda and Benguella, and from thence to find a steamer to take them to the island of San Thomé, where it is very desirable that, if it is found possible, they should stay for a little time, in order to discover the actual situation as regards the importation of Angola labourers to the cocoa plantations, the conditions under which they are contracted, and the arrangements for their repatriation. But the chances and difficulties of travel in Equatorial Africa are at all times great, and these are obviously increased when its objects are such as those which Mr. and Mrs. Harris have in view.

At the Society's Annual Meeting they will have the first public opportunity of giving an account of their investigations on the Congo: the widely-prevailing impression that the British Government is being pressed to recognise the annexation of the Congo State in July makes it of the highest importance that the danger of this being granted without guarantees of the most explicit and firm kind as to the rights of the natives having been first received should be fully realised. Mr. Harris has laid great stress on this point in all his recent communications.

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It is a matter for deep regret that, according to recent news from Lima,



the measures promised by the Government of Peru have come to nothing ; the great majority of the criminals responsible for the outrages in the territory of the Peruvian Amazon Company have escaped without punishment, and nothing seems to have been done towards establishing any administration in that remote region. The terms of a question which has been put on the subject in the House of Commons will be found on another page. The publicity of Sir R. Casement's official report is greatly to be desired, in order that public opinion in this country may be roused on the subject, and effective pressure brought to bear upon the Peruvian Government, and we regret that Sir E. Grey will, as yet, give no promise of publication. The Committee has urged upon the Government the need for full publicity, on the ground that the present situation is one of the gravest danger to the helpless Indians, whose lives and liberty are at the mercy of the adventurers who have exploited them with so much barbarity.

The correspondence which is taking place between our Society and the *Asociacion Pro Indigena* in Lima is referred to elsewhere in this issue ; if the official reports were published in this country the hands of that Association would be strengthened, and it might lead to the publication in Peru of the report of the Judge who made the investigation on the Putumayo.

We draw attention to an important letter from a recent correspondent of the *Daily News* (which will be found on another page), following other correspondence on the subject.

* * * * *

House Rule IN connection with the fact reported by Mr. Harris last spring, that, according to information given to him when **Ordinance in** touching at Fernando Po, from 100 to 200 natives of **Southern** Southern Nigeria are living in that Spanish island, a **Nigeria.** considerable proportion of whom are there to escape the operation of the House Rule Ordinance in the Protectorate, we have been in communication with the Rev. R. Banham, Primitive Methodist missionary, who gave Mr. Harris the information about the particular case of Jabez Linnett, which was duly reported to the Colonial Office. We learn from Mr. Banham that it is very difficult to get from the Calabar people living at Fernando Po any detailed statement, as they are very reticent, and do not like it to be known that they were fugitive slaves.

The Secretary of State has forwarded our letter to the Governor of Southern Nigeria, and the Provincial Commissioner (who is also H.B.M. Consul for Fernando Po) will be instructed to enquire into the case of the Southern Nigeria refugees stated to be residing there on his next visit to the island.

—♦—

The Congo.

MR. HARRIS' LETTERS.

SINCE the last letters from Mr. Harris were published our representatives have covered a large amount of country and accomplished a great deal, including an important journey to the Kasai territory; they have now brought to a close the investigations in the Congo which they undertook with so much courage, and to which they have devoted some eight months of constant laborious travelling, attended by no little difficulty, discomfort and danger. For just two months the Society was without any news from



MR. HARRIS WRITING ON BOARD THE S.S. "LAPSLEY"
EN ROUTE FOR LUEBO.

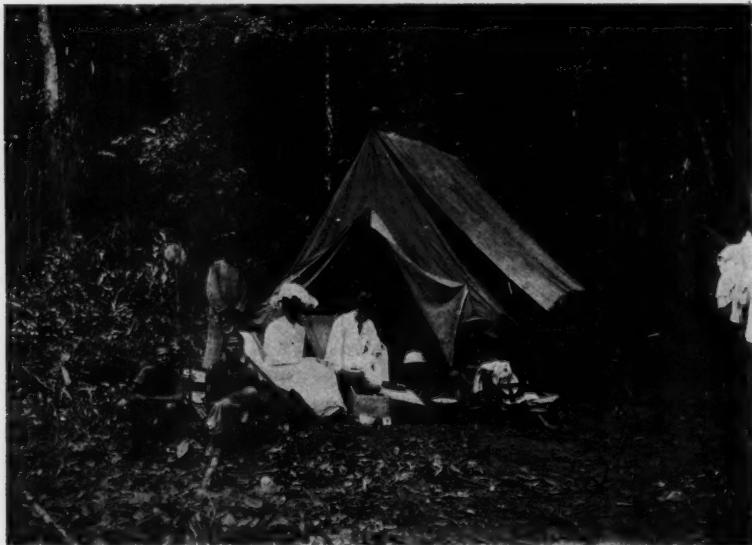
[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

them owing partly to the difficulty of communication from the Kasai, and partly also to the long delay caused by the non-delivery of a heavy packet of letters and reports which was handed for safety to a returning Swedish missionary, who, sad to say, died on the voyage home with his wife, who herself arrived in Sweden very ill. It was, therefore, some time before the missing letters could be traced and forwarded to London, where they arrived only after the middle of February. This has caused an unfortunate delay in the publication of the material which Mr. Harris sent home.

Some letters written later, but received about the middle of January, brought the unwelcome news that Mr. Harris had been attacked by fever just before Christmas and was detained by it at Matadi. The attack proved to be a severe one, but he was able to write from Boma some ten days later that he was feeling much better. Unfortunately, they were unable to obtain passages at the last moment by the steamer by which they hoped to travel from the Congo to Angola, and were, in consequence, detained at Boma waiting for an English steamer to take them south to Loanda until February 2nd. This delay involved much discomfort and even suffering, as Boma is an extremely unhealthy spot, and fever is rife.

From Equatorville, where the Conference of Missionaries was held in October, Mr. and Mrs. Harris went down to Stanley Pool in order to take steamer up the Kasai. They proceeded by the mission SS. *Lapsley* to Luebo, and made a stay in that district. The Kasai country is different in character from the rest of the Congo, and is less tropical in appearance, but the climate can be as deadly as any other part. Ill health and early deaths among Europeans sadden the heart of the traveller. The country is infested by swarms of tsetse flies and mosquitoes.

From Luebo Mr. and Mrs. Harris tried to reach the Sankuru by overland journey, but the carriers refused, after a few hours' march, to go any further owing to a reported rising of native tribes, and they had to take a different route, eventually returning down the river to Stanley Pool,



MR. AND MRS. HARRIS CAMPING IN THE UPPER KASAI.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

and thence to Matadi. Mr. Harris wrote that it looked as though the Kasai journey might ultimately prove the most important part of their work.

FOOD TAXATION.

In a report which was presented last year by the "Commission for the Protection of Aborigines" on the Congo—a body which Mr. Harris considers of very small value—satisfaction was expressed that the food tax, "the collection of which gave rise to just criticisms," had been suppressed throughout the Congo territory.

How little this boast was justified by the facts is shown by a letter which Mr. Harris wrote from the Ikelemba River when travelling in the Equator district a few months ago:—

"I have on several occasions pointed out that forced labour for the food supplies of Administrative Posts had not been abolished in many areas of the Congo, and further that indications are not wanting to show that there is a danger of reaction against the reforming spirit.

"Some weeks ago the tax on fresh meat was re-imposed upon seven small towns in the Basankusu area. Each town has now to hunt and bring in to the official at Basankusu one live animal per week. The men are paid for the animals at the rate of three to five francs according to size. This tax does not at first sight appear to be burdensome, but owing to the scarcity of animal life and the primitive weapons employed in the chase, it constitutes a heavy additional tax upon the community, for it should be borne in mind that the men in this district have also to pay a head tax of five francs per man and two francs each for their wives beyond the first.

"A native hunt to give any promise of success requires about 50 able-bodied men with a dozen hunting-nets of 80 to 100 feet in length, and each man armed with two spears and a hunting knife, all of which must be provided by the natives themselves. The villages upon which this demand is made are of such moderate dimensions that only with difficulty can 50 men be obtained for this purpose. The hunters must rise at cock-crow and journey some hours to a distant forest, where they hunt for varying periods, but seldom return much before nightfall, when, if successful, a runner must go immediately to the official headquarters with the live animal.

"Thus beyond the ordinary tax the further impost is levied upon each of these villages of 52 days' labour a year. In practice it is more, for not infrequently, especially in certain seasons, the hunt is unsuccessful, which entails in each case another day's chase. We overtook one such hunting party of over 50 strong, who made loud complaints of this new imposition, and showed us the results of a whole day's hunt—a small gazelle and a field rat. They questioned whether the gazelle would satisfy the official, and certainly they would not receive more than 3 francs.

"The remuneration is instructive, for given that each day is successful,

and the sum of 5 francs is earned by 50 men 50 times a year, each man's share would be 5 francs. Upon this basis, therefore, 5 francs is regarded by the Government (Congo) as the equivalent of 50 days' labour. We have already seen that each man pays a tax of 5 francs and a varying tax on his wives, the two probably averaging 7 francs per head. Thus on this basis each man gives to the State:—

In actual hunting	50 days
Payment of 7 francs, which, according to the					
Congo State rate of pay to these same hunters,					
works out at the equivalent of (approximately)	70 days				
	120 days				

Thus in labour or cash equivalent (Congo State basis) each hunter in those seven towns gives to the State 120 days' labour each year and in return receives at most 5 francs.

“The argument used against this contention is that the animal caught is not worth more. Admitted, but the point is the amount of forced labour involved.”



AN NGOMBE “CAUGHT NAPPING.”

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

HAS THE OLD SYSTEM DISAPPEARED ?

In a letter to the Congo Reform Association, Mr. Harris has suggested certain considerations to the Committee, and in forwarding this to the Foreign Office, Mr. Morel has pointed out how closely Mr. Harris' estimate of the present situation in the Congo approximates to the views which have already been independently put forward by the Association from quite different materials.

Mr. Harris has urged that Committee to weigh certain facts very carefully before acquiescing in the recognition by Great Britain of the Congo State, which in some quarters appears to be regarded as almost a foregone conclusion in the near future.

Mr. Harris wrote :—

“ We are glad to recognise the great change which has come over the Congo, and are prepared to extend an ungrudging—even a warm—eulogy to the Belgian Government, and more especially to King Albert, for the disappearance of certain features of the old *régime*; but there are facts which it would be folly to ignore. These give rise to three questions :—

- “ (1.) Is it certain that the old system has disappeared beyond recall ?
- “ (2.) Are there any safeguards which preclude the creation of another system of oppression, but little removed from that of former years ?
- “ (3.) Will recognition carry with it *in practice* the lapse of those responsibilities and limitations which are imposed by the Conventions and the acts of the Berlin and Brussels Conferences ?

“ I wish it were possible to give a satisfactory answer to all or to either of these questions, but until we obtain satisfaction upon all three, I venture to think recognition would be premature.

“ I propose dealing briefly with each in turn. There does not appear to be any recorded guarantee precluding a return in the future of the main features of the old system. The denial of native rights in land is still maintained, no inalienable right to collect virgin produce has yet been extended to the natives. It is true they collect produce to-day by a sufferance which may be withdrawn at any moment. Finally, a very large proportion of the old Congo State officials are not only retained but are gradually rising to higher positions and greater influence. These men in most instances avow their disbelief in the present condition of affairs, and would, beyond question, welcome the introduction of a *régime* approximating to the old system of commerce allied to administration. It appears to me as important to obtain for the natives a guarantee of inalienable rights as distinct from privileges both in the land and its natural produce. Whilst such rights remain unrecognised in legislation and practice the danger of a

concessionaire system will be a perpetual menace to native liberty and international peace."

Mr. Harris then deals with a feature of the old system, which he calls

"GOVERNMENT COMMERCIALISM."

"The Government is the keenest competitor, first in ivory and transport. I have used the word competitor, but, in point of fact, merchants are not faced with that honourable competition which implies a fair standard of business dealings; they are confronted with a condition of affairs best described in the pugilistic term, 'hitting below the belt.' In the matter of ivory the Government is guilty of practising every



NATIVES OF ARUWIMI—UELLE DISTRICT.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

conceivable trick, meanness, and illegality, in order to obtain 'points' from the natives. The tusks must be taken to the State to be stamped, and he is a bold native who can successfully resist the pressure to sell at the price the State official offers. The 'ten kilo.' regulation is another method adopted to secure ivory; very few natives have any but the haziest ideas of weights and measures, consequently when they carry tusks weighing about 10 kilos. to be stamped they frequently find them 'confiscated.' In the Lomako region the officials adopt a novel plan: A chief is supplied with guns and ammunition for the express purpose of shooting for ivory for the Government, and this without any respect for the laws of the country as to close season, etc. If promotion depended upon the ivory obtained by officials, they could not be more anxious to

obtain 'points.' It is utterly impossible for merchants to attempt to buy ivory under these conditions, and I suggest that they constitute a clear violation of commercial rights in the Congo.

"There is also the question of transport and plantations. It is, of course, a matter for debate whether or not it is wise for a Colonial Government to engage in such enterprises; but there can be no question as to the evils of this system on the Congo, where by the exercise upon the chief of pressure, amounting in some cases to force, which differs little from capture, the Government is able to obtain labour at its own price; here, again, genuine commercial enterprise has no chance.

"It seems to me that the only way to avoid violations of treaties in commercial matters, and render the future secure, is to insist upon a separation of the administrative from the trading elements; this was always one of the cardinal features of the British policy, as set forth in the speeches of Lord Fitzmaurice.

"Granted that public opinion is satisfied that by July, 1912, the old system will have disappeared beyond recall and that recognition should take place, can we be altogether certain that there is no danger of a future development along other lines but little less oppressive than the old Leopoldian *régime*? I have in mind particularly the State Plantation enterprise, concerning the nature of which there seems to be some misunderstanding, for they are compared with those of the British Government on the Gold Coast. The essential difference between them is that those of the British Colonies are experimental and have as their object the assistance of general agricultural development; they are in no sense a commercial venture. Those of the Belgian Government are commercial enterprises of the most extensive order, and bear little, if any, relation to the agricultural development of the colony. Extraordinary stories are floating about as to the means adopted to secure labour: In October I met —, who had spent nearly fifteen years of commercial life on the Congo, and amongst other notes in my diary upon my conversation with him are the following remarks:—'Yes, the State frequently calls for 'volunteers' for the army, and then turns them into workmen on the plantations.' He spoke of one occasion when between 200 and 300 were so treated, and he adds, 'they are known as 'volunteers by rope,' that is, 'tied by the neck.'

"I have visited many of these plantations, and certain questions thrust themselves forward on every occasion. 'What is M. Renkin waiting for?' and 'How does he intend getting his labour?'

"To my mind the answers to both questions are interdependent. M. Renkin knows he can only obtain a sufficiency by the exercise of an extreme measure of force, and that this would cause an uprising of public opinion which would indefinitely postpone British and American recognition. The

Belgian Government appears to regard everything it touches as a work of public utility, hence it pleads justification for demanding labour (not, of course, in debates in the Belgian Chamber, but in practice).

"If profit-bearing enterprises like plantations, transport and wood-cutting are to be classed with roads, bridges and creek-clearing, then the day of the abolition of forced labour in the Congo is a long way off. It seems to me essential that some guarantee should be obtained with reference to labour for Government profit-bearing enterprises.

"I have discussed British recognition with a good many Belgians out here and am surprised to find that they invariably regard British recognition of the transfer as synonymous with the abrogation of treaties and conventions. They have frequently expressed the opinion that when 'recognition' takes place the Congo territories become the absolute property of Belgium, and all questions by other Governments as to the Administration would be sheer impertinence. Indeed, the real desire out here for recognition appears to be based solely upon the belief that Belgium will then be freed from awkward questions as to the conduct of the Administration.

"Such a position would of course be untenable in any International Court, but in view of this opinion so unanimously and firmly held on the spot, coupled with language held to British Ministers, I suggest that it is supremely important to secure most explicit guarantees with reference to treaty rights and responsibilities, and that the Belgian Government and people should understand clearly that the British nation regards its duty to the Congo natives as one of its most sacred duties towards the so-called subject races of the world.

"In conclusion, I can only reiterate my view that the most explicit guarantees as to the future should precede British recognition of the transfer. . . ."

In connection with Mr. Harris' expressed apprehensions, it is noteworthy that these dangers were also mentioned in the official reports of the British Consuls, to which brief reference was made in our last issue. Mr. Harris could find no guarantee against a return to the old *régime*; native rights to their land are not recognised.

"Belgium," wrote Acting-Consul Campbell, after referring to the delay in extending the reforms to the whole country, "prefers to continue to derive an income from forced labour rather than have recourse to the measure which would best serve 'the interests of the State, the natives, and commerce'—namely, a grant-in-aid. Meanwhile (he wrote) it is satisfactory to learn that in the area now open to trade, the natives are evidently regaining their liberty under the faithful interpretation of the decrees granting them the right to sell the rubber which they gather, *without, it is true, actually allowing them their rights in the land*, and ordaining the payment of a moderate tax in money."

The same official wrote that the Government must still be considered as an unfair competitor; so long as certain districts remain closed to traders. Trade having been discouraged by high rubber taxes and ivory laws, the State, having reserved some of the richest rubber districts, will in a few years' time point to the failure of the free trade system as a reason for returning to the old *régime*. Mr. Armstrong, too, found evidence that the Government intends to make free trade as difficult as possible, while Consul Mackie admitted that "the general aspect of the situation in the 1912 zones does not altogether inspire confidence," and doubted whether the conditions left unchanged would bear the light of an impartial examination.

In the matter of ivory, to which Mr. Harris refers, Mr. Campbell declared that the charge of being "an unfair confiscator," must still be brought against the State.

SLAVERY.

We add a remarkable extract from Mr. Armstrong's report on his journey in the Uele district in 1910, pointing to a deplorable state of things there:—

"In the Uele district slavery is rife. In no other part of the Congo, nor, indeed, in any other part of Africa that I have visited, is slavery carried on so openly. No attempt whatever is made to hide it. Natives are bought and sold, and officials take no notice whatever of the fact. Indeed, it would be difficult for them to do so, because they have actually organised a thorough system of slavery in the Mamvu country. . . . That a direct system of slavery has been created, and is being maintained by the Government, is indisputable. . . . Officials state that the Mamvu are a very wild and lawless tribe. That such is the case I do not doubt for a moment, but it is no justification for their enslavement. . . . In fact, the system as they explained it to me was precisely the same as the sentry system of the Equator and Mongalla districts, and more especially in the A.B.I.R. and Mongalla concessions. There is no doubt, therefore, from the evidence of the Mamvu and their task-masters, the Mangbettu chiefs themselves, that these people are badly treated."

San Thomé Slave Labour.

THE following letter has been received by Sir T. F. Buxton from the recent Synod of the American missionaries on the Kasai, in regard to the slave labourers on the San Thomé plantations.

In an accompanying note Mr. Harris reminds us that Dr. Morrison, the fearless advocate of the Congo natives, is probably the best known member of this Mission, and his defence of their cause in the Courts will be remembered.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN CONGO MISSION,
LUEBO, CONGO BELGE,

November 29th, 1911.

TO SIR T. F. BUXTON, BART., G.C.M.G.,
*President of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society,
London.*

SIR,—From this distant post in the South-Eastern territory of the Congo we have watched closely the efforts of your Society on behalf of the slaves on the cocoa islands of San Thomé and Principe. We understand that for the present the traffic between the mainland and the islands has ceased, but that no appreciable efforts are being made to restore the 30,000 slaves to their homes in Central Africa. We are informed that the Portuguese Government is willing to assist in their repatriation, but the contention is made that these slaves have come from so far inland that very few would be able to find their way home, hence repatriation is regarded as impossible. But the suggestion has been made that many of them could return *via* the Congo, providing some means were taken to identify the tribes to which the slaves belong. In reply, however, to this suggestion it has been stated that such identification is impossible.

In view of the foregoing we venture to believe that an opinion from the missionaries of this region may be of some service to your Committee. We cannot, of course, assert categorically that there are people from this district on San Thomé, but we do state most emphatically that if such are there identification is not only possible but quite simple, and repatriation could then be accomplished with the goodwill of the Portuguese Government, and provided the necessary funds were forthcoming.

It seem to us quite possible that a considerable proportion of these slaves have been obtained from this Kasai region. Contrary to the general belief, the ownership of slaves is widely prevalent here, and no definite steps are being taken as yet, so far as we know, by the Belgian Government to abolish this form of domestic slavery. Experience here has taught us that, wherever domestic slavery prevails, the buying and selling of slaves, to a greater or less extent, is a constant practice. While it is true that the local Belgian Government has, we think, made a serious and honest effort within the past few years to prevent the selling of slaves across the Portuguese border, yet the territory is so large and the force of white officials is so small, that we are afraid that even now the traffic is not entirely stopped. Moreover, we are quite prepared to believe that within the past 20 years, especially before the Belgian Colonial Government became more vigilant, the number actually sold across the border must have been very great. While the main route of the traffic did not pass immediately through Luebo, yet we constantly heard reports of slaves being sold to the Bachoko (kioks), who were the middlemen on the border. Where they went after passing into the hands of these Bachoko we do not know. It is only

highly presumptive that they were again sold on toward the coast, for, in Africa, slaves always move towards the coast.

Therefore, we cannot say certainly that any of these people are now on the cocoa islands, but we do say that if any are there, the matter of identification by means of language, tribal markings, etc., would certainly be a very simple undertaking.

The statement has been made that there are perhaps 3,000 slaves in the islands from this part of the Congo. We wish to re-affirm that, if such is the case, a small Commission composed of Portuguese and Belgian officials, assisted by some intelligent natives and by one or more missionaries from this district, who speak the language of the region and know the country, could easily establish their identity.

We take this occasion to express to you the deep appreciation which our Mission feels for the splendid work your Society has done and is doing for the oppressed in this and other lands.

Yours very cordially and sincerely,

For the American Presbyterian Congo Mission,

(Signed) JAS. M. C. SIEG, *Chairman.*

GEORGE T. MCKEE, *Secretary.*

A communication from the Lisbon correspondent of the *Daily News* appeared in that newspaper on the 1st March to the effect that, in compliance with the British Government's desire, 30,000 negroes, who had been employed on the San Thomé and Principe cocoa plantations, had been repatriated during the last two months by virtue of the new repatriation law.

This is a strange statement, as from the information hitherto received we have no reason to believe that even a tenth of that number of repatriations of *serviçais* has taken place, and there would certainly seem to be a mistake in the figures given. The new law, the correspondent went on to state, severely punishes all persons guilty of inflicting bodily punishment upon natives. Several plantation owners have presented a petition to the Government asking that the law may be revoked, as it is ruinous to their interests, but the Government have refused to accede to their request.

Captain Henriques, the Governor of Mossamedes, is reported to have said that the law is absolutely necessary, as the cruelties inflicted on natives are many and barbarous. He has seen hundreds of negroes with broken arms and fingers covered with scars, as the result of tortures received.

Rubber Slavery in Peru.

THE following striking letter appeared in the *Daily News* of March 1st:—

(*To the Editor of "The Daily News."*)

Sir,—I welcome the letters of "Traveller" and Mr. Travers Buxton dealing with the disgraceful condition of things in the Peruvian and Bolivian

Amazon rubber regions. There is a point that "Traveller" brings forward that deserves very serious consideration.

I refer to his statement that "the vast bulk of Amazon rubber is conveyed in British vessels."

All the rubber of the Peruvian Amazon Company, Limited, is conveyed to England in British bottoms and is put upon the market through London brokers. A Peruvian officer recently told me that all this rubber was produced out of blood and corpses, and one of the incidents this officer described was where two small Indian boys, of seven or eight years old, as punishment for not bringing in their quota of rubber, had been penned with wire on to an earthenware oven used for baking bread and slowly baked.

This took place at a station of the Peruvian Amazon Company, Limited, and the agent who performed this dastardly act had been educated in London, although, happily, not a British subject.

My informant described the agonies of the two little Indians as they writhed in this infernal torment, and finally, in pity, he took his rifle and shot them both. For this act he was dismissed the service of the company, and he is now serving the Government of Peru in a military capacity.

This crime was only one of crimes without number committed at this particular station of the Devil's Paradise, where, as I say, the agent responsible had been commercially trained in London, and held certificates of two London schools. All these crimes had their origin in the lust of gain—the wish to get rubber and the greatest quantity of rubber possible in the shortest possible time—and so a pressure was put upon the Indians to compel them to collect it that inevitably degenerated into the most revolting cruelty the mind can imagine. This rubber still comes from the Putumayo, and still comes to London, and is still conveyed under the British flag. Nothing has happened on the Putumayo itself to shake the hold of the agents of the Peruvian Amazon Company from off their Indian victims. Whole tribes are still held in a bondage that is grimmer and far more dreadful than anything that took place on the Congo. I know of incidents beside which the foregoing murder of the two small boys is literally child's play.

And the product of this orgy of crime, and madness, and bestiality comes to London under the British flag, and is bought and sold by worthy London citizens. Surely, if San Thomé cocoa could be boycotted because it was produced by slave labour, Putumayo rubber should never see the hold of a British vessel, or figure on the sale sheets of a decent London market. There was a firm, I believe a London insurance firm, that hesitated to insure this rubber on the ground that it was "bloody rubber," and the Peruvian Amazon Company had some difficulty in effecting this necessary commercial transaction. All honour to the insurance company that had this healthy doubt. All honour to every British company that shall refuse to draw profit from the forests of the Putumayo or prosper upon the slaughter of Indian families. There are other Devil's Paradises in that part of the world. One on a big scale, and equally with headquarters in England, is known to me. But let us begin with Putumayo, and, as there

is no pity to be found in Peru for these poor Indian slaves of the rubber fiends, let us transmute pity into terms of barter, and refuse to carry, buy, or sell any rubber coming from the Putumayo until we get in exchange some government of civilised men to take charge of the district.

It is a pity Mr. Roosevelt, instead of going to Uganda to shoot 4,000 head of innocent and defenceless creatures, had not journeyed up the Amazon in quest of the most ferocious and dangerous big game left for the hunting of well-armed men. The rubber dealer, or "cauchero" of the Amazon woodlands, can shoot back as well as torture Indian men, women, and children, and I can imagine no more healthy and entralling sport for a millionaire Duke or a fastidious sportsman than to fit out a yacht with a crew of decent, well-armed lads, and to steam up the Amazon until he reaches the "big game" haunts. He will have a fine run for his money, and will leave in those phantom-haunted forests something memorable, something eternal—the assurance of life to the hunted and the terrified, the assurance of justice and death to the murderer and the coward.

D. MACCAMMOND.

London, Feb. 29th.

A letter has been also received from an anonymous correspondent, who, from his business on the Upper Amazon having taken him to all the rivers in Loreto, describes himself as knowing all the "ins and outs" concerning the atrocities on "the lovely Putumayo River." Before the Peruvian exploiters had the idea of converting their business into a limited company, with its head office in London, the Huitoto Indians (little of stature and extremely amiable) were left to live their own lives and were little interfered with. They collected rubber in their own crude ways, were not coerced, and, though they were not paid money wages, were "looked after generally." The correspondent goes on:—

"The demand of rubber from London became clamorous, however, and the result was that Barbados niggers were contracted to superintend the collection on the Putumayo, and the worst kind of slavery was instituted. Thus one and all of the atrocities were committed by British subjects, although it must be admitted that the Peruvian heads of the firm were the instigators. At this point I might as well admit that neither *Truth* nor any other denunciations have ever published the true nature of half the atrocities which have actually been perpetrated by these niggers, no doubt owing to the shocking reading it would have made. Now I have arrived at my real purpose of writing to your Society.

"The Peruvian Amazon Company, Limited, being liquidated, practically becomes a Peruvian concern once more, and the barbaric methods are again resorted to; as with rubber at one-third the price of 1909-10, it is imperative that they have to double and treble their output, which can only be done by slavery

"I absolutely assert that slavery and atrocities, which would shock the whole civilised world, are again taking place on the Putumayo River, and

to-day, more so than two years ago, it is the duty of all English-speaking nations to at last step in and put an end to barbarities, the least of which would beggar anything that has ever been perpetrated in the history of the world.

"Commissions and Commissioners will do no good, or will only result in temporary cessation of cruelties, though our British Commissioner, Sir Roger Casement, by his wonderful courage in intervening, must have been the means of the saving of thousands of lives during the last year, but now the holy fear of the English is allayed again.

"My appeal is to the English-speaking nations for once to put aside any financial considerations, and go for the Peruvian Government tooth and nail. . . . I wish I could make clear to my fellow-countrymen what a kind-hearted and lovable lot these Huitoto Indians are! They are infinitely more moral than we are, and their family ties are on quite as sacred a basis as ours, and are observed, not, as I frequently found out, from any religious point of view, but simply from the dictates of a good heart and a clean healthy mind. Their absolute trust in the goodness and superiority of the white man is simply appalling considering what he is responsible for."

PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 5th March.

MR. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he could give any particulars as to measures taken by the Peruvian Government to secure and punish the criminals concerned in the murders of Indians on the rubber plantations of the Putumayo; whether that Government was in a position to establish effective administration in the territory; and whether His Majesty's Government would now publish Sir Roger Casement's report.

SIR E. GREY: I am still in communication with the Peruvian Government with regard to the first two questions. I am not yet in a position to give a definite reply to the last part of the question, but my hon. friend may rest assured that the matter is receiving close attention.

LABOUR ABUSES.

THE *Asociacion Pro-Indigena* in Lima continues to protest against abuses of the labour methods of some of the great foreign companies who do business in Peru. It refers to the evil custom of inducing ignorant labourers to work by making them cash advances which they are obliged to repay in labour. This is the common practice in S. America, and gives the employer an obviously dangerous hold over the person and liberty of the workmen. Other abuses are the application of the truck system to employees of a company and the illegal use of provisional bills or coins for payment of

wages instead of ready money. The National Government seems impotent to prevent these abuses. Miserable wages are paid to native mechanics, smiths, &c., and corruption is employed to prevent judicial notice being taken of outrages upon the helpless labourers. The provincial prisons are said to be full of Indians who expiate small and often imaginary delinquencies, such as the theft of timber, coal, or liquor bottles, of which their employers accuse them. A distinction must be drawn between the "civilized" Indians of the coast districts and the wild tribes in outlying remoter regions. If the rights and interests of the former continue to be neglected by the Government, there is little hope of redressing the more glaring wrongs perpetrated on the former. Every advantage is taken of the weakness and ignorance of these hapless people, who are looked upon as lower animals whose sufferings are a matter of complete indifference to the "superior" conquering race. In these circumstances the difficulties attendant on the work of the Lima Asociacion are extremely great, and it deserves the sympathy and support of all who have the interests of subject races at heart.

Slavery in Morocco.

THE Society has received another report on this subject from Mr. Donald Mackenzie, as the result of a second visit to Morocco. A copy of the report has been sent to Sir Edward Grey, with a letter calling his special attention to the statement that British protected subjects hold slaves and deal in them. It was also pointed out that in asking the Government to endeavour to secure the co-operation of other Powers, with a view to obtaining a treaty with the Sultan for the suppression of slavery and slave trading in Morocco, the Society was urging a policy which it had long advocated, and had more than once before pressed upon the Government. It is much to be regretted that Sir E. Grey gives so discouraging a reply on this point.

"I arrived in Tangier on the 16th October, and afterwards proceeded down the coast to Mogador. From there I proceeded to Morocco City, from whence the British Vice-Consul and myself made a journey into the interior. We passed through nine provinces and penetrated the Atlas Mountains in two places. We travelled altogether about four hundred miles, and we had a friendly reception wherever we went. We stayed with some of the chief Moors in the interior; they are all holders of slaves. As to their treatment at the hands of their masters it would be difficult to report with any certainty, without a fairly long stay in the country. I am, however, able to state that the native *protégés* of all nations, including England, are holders of slaves, and are probably dealers in slaves. Mr. Laird, the Superintendent of the Southern Morocco Mission, went with me to visit the slave market in Morocco City. It was on a Friday, a day on which little

business is done in slaves; we found only small black girls for sale, with the exception of one fairly old. There were twelve slaves for sale; whether there had been more earlier or later in the day I could not tell. The auctioneers went round with these few slaves asking for bids—a heart-rending sight, especially so when one knows that these human chattels are sold under the shadow of a British Vice-Consulate. I have every reason to believe that the private sale of slaves in various parts of Morocco surpasses the number sold publicly. White and black are sold privately; I do not think that white slaves are sold publicly. Kidnapping is another form of slave dealing, which I believe is largely practised in this country. While I was in Morocco a girl had been kidnapped from the Atlas and taken for some Moor in Saffi; the matter having come before the notice of the British Vice-Consul, he fortunately took steps to release the girl and sent her back to her home in the Atlas. I found that some good-hearted people had purchased slaves from their owners and made the slaves repay the amount advanced; when completed they were free. This system, however well meant, is open to much abuse, and only encourages slave-dealing instead of diminishing it. The proposed French occupation of Morocco will not, in my judgment, diminish slave-dealing or slavery in that country; the only remedy which the Society should adopt is to urge the British Government to join with France, Germany and Spain, with a view to obtaining a treaty from the Sultan of Morocco for abolishing slave-trading and slavery throughout his dominions. Even after obtaining such a treaty, or decree, its execution would require careful watching. I venture most earnestly to ask the Society to take this matter in hand, so as to free Morocco—a country almost in touch with Europe—from the stain of slavery which has flourished in that land for so many ages."

(Signed) DONALD MACKENZIE.

January 23rd, 1912.

SIR E. GREY'S REPLY.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

19th February, 1912.

SIR,—Secretary Sir E. Grey has had under consideration your letter of the 5th instant requesting that His Majesty's Government will endeavour to secure the co-operation of other Powers in suppressing Slavery in Morocco, and calling attention to the statement that slaves are held by British protected persons in Morocco.

You will remember that at the Algeciras Conference in 1906 the British delegate proposed a resolution in favour of the abolition of slavery in Morocco: and it is largely owing to their efforts in recent years that the public sale of slaves has practically been abolished except at Marrakesh.

His Majesty's Government regret that the result of their action at Algeciras has not as yet fulfilled the hopes based on it, but after careful consideration Sir E. Grey does not feel that he is in a position to raise the question at the present time.

I am to add that Sir E. Grey has requested His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to furnish him with a report in regard to the holding of slaves by British protected persons.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

*The Secretary,
Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.*

New Hebrides Abuses.

THE Society is still in communication with the New Hebrides missionaries as to the deplorable state of things in these islands, and has brought the facts fully before certain persons in France who are known to be interested in the welfare of native races, and who, we have reason to hope, will take up the matter in that country.

A correspondent informs us that the recent news as to the sale of liquor to natives is "worse than ever." The question of native lands is also very serious. There is now a distinct tendency on the part of certain settlers to occupy native lands—by force sometimes—presumably in the hope of eventually getting a percentage of their claim allowed, for the Convention provides that three years' occupation constitutes one basis for a claim to title.

We understand that an official report from the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific may shortly be looked for.

Forced Labour Demands in Southern Rhodesia.

THE attention of the Society was recently drawn by an Anglican Mission in Southern Rhodesia to demands for labour which were being made by Assistant Native Commissioners, who, it was believed, were acting under authority. The missionaries stated that there was a good deal of unrest among the natives, due to many causes, including reports of the recent "Lewis" and other similar cases, to a growing feeling of alarm as to the tenure of native land reserves, etc., and it was alleged that Native Department officials had brought intimidation and open violence to bear

upon the natives to force them to work. This policy, it was stated, was endangering the peace and tranquillity of the country. The Society brought these allegations to the notice of the Colonial Office, and in due course received the following satisfactory reply:—

DOWNING STREET,
16th February, 1912.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this Department of the 2nd instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to inform you that he has now had before him the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the allegations against officials of the Native Department, Mashonaland, in connection with the Circular issued by the Administration on the 22nd of September, 1911, with regard to the supply of native labour.

2. The Committee, while exonerating the Native Commissioner or his Clerk from connection with the illegal acts of native messengers, of which complaint has been made, found that the allegations of the use of intimidation in the Makoni district by native messengers were substantially accurate. In accordance with their findings, instructions have been issued by the Administrator for the Native Commissioner to be severely censured, and for the early removal of his clerk to another district, and, in proportion to their guilt, for the dismissal or degradation of the native messengers against whom intimidation has been proved.

3. The High Commissioner for South Africa has expressed his concurrence in the action taken by the Administration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Deportation of Arabs from Tripoli.

THE Society has been endeavouring to obtain some information about the Arab prisoners of war who were deported from Tripoli last autumn when the Italian military authorities decided to clear the oasis. Some 2,000 Arabs are admitted to have been taken to the remote Italian islands of Tremiti and Ustica. The Tremiti group are particularly inaccessible, lying out in the Adriatic, and in ordinary times are used as a convict station. The climate is said to be very rigorous, and, according to a published account in the semi-official Roman newspaper, the *Tribuna*, a few weeks ago, has caused a high mortality among the unfortunate Arabs.

We are informed that accurate information is very difficult to get on account of the severe censorship, and our attempts to get particulars from official sources have not been successful.

The correspondent of the *Tribuna*, however, is not likely to exaggerate,

and his statement is far from re-assuring. He is described as a soldier of the *Croce Verde* who spent some time on the Tremiti islands for the anti-cholera campaign among the Turco-Arabian prisoners of war. He wrote:—

“The conditions of health in Tremiti are now generally good, and the Turkish-Arabs are dying only of lung trouble caused by the cold now prevailing and to which they are not accustomed. About three hundred have died.

“There are 1,668 prisoners—Arabs, Bedouins, Soudanese, and a few Turks. Ugly, nasty beasts they are, except the Bedouins, who very much resemble us, and are intelligent and affectionate, and for the majority are employed in the internal and external Services, or as servants to anyone making a demand for them. Knowing that we are about to leave, they are quite sorry and wish that the cholera would return. They are very well treated, and severe punishment is meted out to anyone who ill-treats them. But they really don't deserve it, because they are, particularly the Arabs, without exception, real and absolute curs.”

Many of the prisoners are said to be under martial law, fourteen of them under sentence of death. The islands are quite small, and, as the convicts have been removed to another island the present population consists almost entirely of military and officials.

A death rate of 300 out of about 2,000 people (it is not stated how many of these are women and children) from the severe climatic conditions demands investigation, but we cannot find that it has attracted much attention in Italy. And yet it must be remembered that these unfortunates are probably guilty of no crime, and have merely been deported to Italian territory for “military exigencies”—a term which may be used to cover so much of injustice and cruelty.

The Secretary of the Italian Anti-Slavery Society, in reply to our inquiries, states that, according to the important information which he has gathered, the Arabs are not “prisoners of war,” but are vagabonds and beggars, nearly all people of the lowest class. The mortality among them he considers to be largely due to the condition in which they arrived, ill-nourished, worn out by the journey and terrified by the Turks who assured them that they would all be killed in Italy. Their habits are of the dirtiest kind, consequently diseases have been rife amongst them, but the Inspector-General of Health and the doctors have to a great extent successfully combated these, and their condition is much better. The climate of the islands is not too severe, though for Africans it is admitted that even the South of Italy may be trying. Comm. Simonetti further states that the prisoners have been well clad and fed, and he has been assured that they show themselves contented with the treatment given them.

A newspaper telegram from Malta in February reported that three Arabs bound in heavy iron chains were found on a steamer which was

proceeding from Palermo to Tripoli and were detained by the police, as, according to Maltese law, such persons found in custody must be reported to the magistrate, and unless a lawful written order can be produced to prove that they are in custody for a non-political offence the Governor will release the prisoners. The marshal in charge of the men stated that they were being repatriated to Tripoli from Ustica at the request of their families, but the Arabs themselves were utterly unaware of their destination, and expressed a wish to be set free on British soil. The Governor of Malta, on February 14th, ordered the release of the men, who, according to the *Corriere di Sicilia*, were leaders of the rising in the oasis of Tripoli last October and were being sent to Tripoli for trial.

East Africa Protectorate.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

FROM this Report for the year 1910-11 we learn that, during that period, the working of the abolition of slavery has been performed in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

The Governor writes:—

“ Altogether, 5,519 claims were dealt with, and the compensation and maintenance paid amounted to nearly £24,000. A decline of 501 cases on the previous year was recorded, with a corresponding decrease in compensation, which would seem to indicate that the great majority of slaves in the coast belt have already been dealt with.

“ There are 91 aged and decrepit slaves in receipt of maintenance at the rate of Rs.3 each *per mensem*. The average rate per head paid for slaves was £5 11s. 3d., as against £6 1s. 1d. in 1909-10.

“ Of the original grant of £40,000, £28,036 was spent up to March 31st, 1911, and £10,000 estimated for the current financial year, leaving a balance of £1,964, out of which £954 was devoted to the building of a school for Mohammedan children at Mombasa. It is, therefore, anticipated that a small extra sum will have to be provided to complete the scheme. It cannot be denied that the Arabs feel most keenly the near approach of the date on which no further application for compensation will be entertained, namely, January 1st, 1912, because they will then be compelled to part with their best slaves whom they have retained to the very last, such as cultivators, sailors, carpenters, and masons, domestic servants, and female inmates of their harems.

“ In view of the occupation of Afmadi, Serenli, and Marsabit, the advisability of gradually extending the scheme of the abolition of slavery to those districts where slavery still exists is being considered.”

It will be noted that compensation for slave owners has now come to an end. Presumably those infirm slaves who have successfully claimed compensation for the loss of maintenance which, by the Slavery Decree of 1909, could be awarded either in a lump sum or a monthly payment, will still be assisted, but no new claims will be entertained.

We are glad to see that a gradual extension of the abolition scheme is in contemplation.

The reports of native affairs from the different provinces seem generally satisfactory. In several of these tribal authority has been revived and native courts established to the advantage of the administration. Little is said about labour, but it would appear to be plentiful in most districts.

A section of the Report is devoted to Lands and Surveys. During the year 245 grants were made, comprising an area of 389,598 acres, an increase on last year. Pending the enactment of the proposed Crown Lands Ordinance, which has received much attention during the year, 99 years' leases have been granted; in the case of applications received since 1st March, 1911, the leases provide for revision of rent after 33 and 66 years. A graduated surtax is to be imposed in order to discourage the accumulation of land in the hands of individuals.

A Land Titles Ordinance has been enacted in order to cope with the difficulty of the insecurity of title offered by native owners and the uncertainty as to what is Government land at the coast. All lands, waste or hitherto uncultivated, as well as that which has gone out of cultivation, are claimed by Government, but until privately owned lands have been separated from these, the Government cannot deal with them. This is said to have unduly retarded the development of the coast.

An Arbitration Board, consisting of an experienced official and the *Liwalis* (Governors) of the coast towns, began work in April, 1910, its immediate object being to make a preliminary and exhaustive investigation into all claims to land with a view to determining their validity, and ultimately to demarcate the boundaries, to pave the way for the Recorder of Titles. As a result of the surveys, it is estimated that during the year 1911-12 over 100,000 acres of Crown land will become available for settlement, and when the difficulties have been removed great attraction will be held out for the investment of capital, native and other owners will benefit by acquiring an indisputable title to their land, and the Government will be able to utilise its property to the best advantage and for the general economic development of the country.

Northern Nigeria.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

THE Annual Report of the Protectorate for the year 1910-1911 was published at the end of January. Once more the Governor reports a year of complete peace. "The peaceful state of the whole country," he writes, "bears striking testimony to the universal acceptance by the natives of a system of government which is sympathetic to them." The civil staff has, during the year, been devoting itself to the consolidation of the administration, and the policy of governing the people through their natural leaders has been faithfully carried out wherever possible. Continued effort is being made to introduce order in place of chaos, and to develop, or, where necessary, create tribal organisations, based upon the customary law of the tribe. The results of this policy have been markedly favourable.

A new step taken during the year is the establishment of a treasury in each native state, known as the *Beit-el-Mal*, to regulate that portion of the local revenue which is annually assigned to the native administration of each Emirate. This consolidates the rank and authority of chiefs, strengthens the position of the native judiciary, and diminishes extortion and corruption. It is expected that influential natives will be rallied to the side of the Government. The merits of this organisation are already, it is said, being keenly appreciated.

The native courts are being carefully reorganised, and crimes of violence and robbery have almost disappeared since they were established. Judges and police are in sympathy with the people, and the native police manage with ease the large crowds of natives who attend at official gatherings and ceremonies.

Among the laws passed during the year was a Land and Native Rights Proclamation, based upon the recommendations of an official Committee, which was appointed by the home Government to report upon the subject, and designed to secure the rights of the natives to the use of the land. The law now enacted consolidates and invests with the force of law native customs regarding land tenure, which are essential to the well-being of the natives themselves, and which do not hinder development on modern lines.

Under the heading of "Criminal Statistics," we notice that there were 155 offences against the slavery law dealt with in the Courts, and 134 convictions as against 137 in the previous year. These figures show a considerable decrease since 1908.

The expenditure on the Freed Slaves' Home in Zungeru for the year was only £57, as compared with £967 in the previous year. This fall is doubtless due to the transference of the Home to the Sudan United Mission

Home at Rumasha, which took place in August, 1910. This Institution is subsidised by the Government.

A prominent event of the year was the carrying of the Baro-Kano Railway as far as Kano. The construction of this railway is said to be a triumph of economy, reflecting immense credit on all concerned. It is expected that this and the other railways in the Protectorate will revolutionise the conditions and have a marked influence upon the primitive inhabitants of the districts which they traverse.

The system of taxation has been carefully regulated, and a large increase of revenue has been the result, though the individuals in the Northern Province are not paying more than they did before the occupation.

On the general subject we may quote some interesting passages from a speech of the Governor last year, when, speaking at the second annual Northern Nigeria dinner, Sir Hesketh Bell said :

“ Our mission in the Nigerian protectorates is to bring peace and security to every native who lives under our flag ; to abolish slavery and tyranny ; to secure freedom of trade, and to promote the industrial progress of every community ; to improve the conditions of life generally, and to combat the diseases that are rife among the natives ; finally, to inculcate among the chiefs and people a sense of moral responsibility, and to fit them gradually for the day when they may be capable, under a minimum of direction and guidance, to administer their own government, and to work out the salvation of their country.

“ In the pursuit of these ideals we must look for many difficulties and frequent disappointments, and we shall have to traverse a critical period of transition. In a decade or two, the memories of slavery, raids and robberies will only linger in the minds of the comparatively aged, and the rising generation will know nothing of the days when there was no security for either life or property, and when anyone venturing far beyond the walls of his city was liable to be carried away to the great slave markets of the North. . . . We will persevere and progress in our work as our predecessors did before us, and our reward will be in the thought that we have been true to the traditions of our Motherland, that we have done our little best to prove worthy of the opportunities given to us, and that we have helped to bring freedom, prosperity and security where there used to be nothing but slavery, cruelty and misery.”

Since the publication of the report it has been announced that on the Governorship of Southern Nigeria becoming vacant by the transfer of Sir Walter Egerton to British Guiana, advantage will be taken of the opportunity to take a first step towards amalgamating the Governments of Southern and Northern Nigeria, a measure which has for some time been in contemplation. Sir Frederick Lugard, who has a great record of

African service, and whose work in Northern Nigeria especially is so well known, will, it is announced, be appointed Governor of both the Protectorates, which will remain, however, separate until he has reported to the Secretary of State.

"Sir Frederick," says *The Times*, "was the first to inspire the splendid administration which British officers have created in Northern Nigeria, and no man is more fitted by capacity, experience, and popularity with the service he goes to control to carry out the difficult administrative change which lies before the two Protectorates."

Sir F. Lugard has exceptional experience of African slavery, and has for many years taken the keenest interest in the subject. Alike in Uganda, East Africa, and Northern Nigeria, he adopted a vigorous policy against slave trading and slavery. In 1904 he wrote to the Society on the slavery question in Northern Nigeria, pointing out how much had been done to put down raids and free slaves in that most slave-ridden district of Africa. He expressed the opinion that "the result achieved by officers of Northern Nigeria in these four years (1900-1904) may probably compare with those achieved by Gordon in the Sudan in the same period over a similar area."

Review.

"BLACK AND WHITE IN SOUTH-EAST AFRICA."

BY MAURICE S. EVANS, C.M.G.*

THIS book forms a valuable contribution to the study of the South African native question, written as it is by one who is no hasty and superficial observer, but who has given much time and deep thought to consideration of the thorny problems which it presents. Mr. Evans, who was a member of the Natal Native Affairs Commission of 1907, and subsequently of the Natal Native Council, has studied these at first hand, not from a party standpoint, but with a keen desire to get at truth. Above all, as Sir Matthew Nathan well puts it in his preface, Mr. Evans possesses that sympathy with both Christian and tribal natives, as well as with his fellow-colonists, which is essential to any real understanding of the relations between two peoples. He has tried, as he says, to look at things with the eyes of "the other man." The consequence is that his conclusions are always well thought out and interesting, even when we may not be able fully to accept them. Mr. Evans is no easy dogmatiser; he realises that the best we can hope for is "a working hypothesis." The conditions are such that we can but "watch, willing to modify" our tentative conclusions "in the light of the experience of to-morrow."

The three principles of native administration, which the author lays

down as fundamental, are:—(1) The white man must govern. (2) Parliament, elected by the white man, must delegate a large measure of their power and refrain from undue interference. (3) The races must, as far as possible, be kept separate.

In each of the various native policies hitherto adopted by the Governments of South-East Africa, Mr. Evans finds points of value which should be conserved. His first fundamental principle is prominent in the Transvaal policy, while the third was recognised by the early administrators of Natal; from Natal, too, though it has been violated in latter days, came the important principle that white rule of the black should be personal and sympathetic. The second principle, that the natives should be encouraged, under white guidance, to manage their own affairs, has been carried out in Cape Colony. From Basutoland we learn that a people may be contented and make progress under tribal rule.

Of great importance are the chapters dealing with the native land question, education, tribalism, self-government, and the effect of Missions, while that entitled, "The Effect on the White Man" of all laborious work being done by natives, is especially suggestive. The white race, he maintains, cannot retain its fibre and efficiency on a basis of servile labour; the theory that manual labour is derogatory to the white man has led to the "poor white" problem.

The remedy for the present unsatisfactory relations between black and white which Mr. Evans favours is to reduce the points of contact between them, for he regards their assimilation as involving grave and subtle dangers for the white, and unlikely to benefit the native. Segregation, on an extensive and complete scale, is a leading feature of his policy. In areas set apart exclusively for natives, they should have opportunity for personal and race development. If local District Councils were established under the direction of the magistrate, the natives would have responsibility and a hope and interest in their lives.

We notice that in an able review of this book in the *African Review* for January, Colonel H. E. Rawson, who also writes from much experience, disagrees entirely with Mr. Evans in recommending complete segregation, and points out that this policy did not commend itself either to the Commission of 1881-2 or that of 1906-7; the evidence at the latter Commission was altogether in favour of the natives being kept within touch of the civilising influence of the white man, which would stimulate individual effort. Instead of segregation, Colonel Rawson would, we think wisely, recommend controlled intercourse.

The success of the administration of the Transkeian territories, where a system of native District Councils under a General Council confers a considerable measure of self-government, and in four districts of which an

allotment of land scheme has been adopted, is notable. A small Commission was appointed by the Natal Government in 1908 to investigate the Transkei system, and reported very favourably upon it. Referring to "the strange phenomenon of self-imposed taxation by a people for the most part still in barbarism," they wrote in their report:—

"From observation and inquiry we were convinced that the extent and success both of the land tenure and Council systems were directly due to the persuasive measures and tactful pressure exercised by officials, from the chief magistrate down. While the provisions of the proclamation have been proved excellent, they would have been a dead letter but for the philanthropic spirit which has animated their administration." (P. 258.)

Mr. Evans well emphasises the importance of the spirit which animates those who administer native affairs. If the work is regarded as "the most important to which men can give their lives in South Africa," and a high standard is demanded, natives will respond with a quick intuition.

Mr. Evans has much to say in favour of the tribal system of government, which, in spite of undoubted disadvantages, seems to have produced a marked respect for law, and subordination of selfish ends to the common weal. The system is being imperceptibly, but surely, undermined by European individualism, but the native clings closely to it, and Mr. Evans would consciously support him in holding to what is best in his life's plan. The advantages of individual land tenure, which are obvious to the European, do not appeal to the native. At the same time some amount of change is inevitable, and the Transkei experiment in land tenure will be copied in other parts of South Africa; but, Mr. Evans insists, "Whatever system be adopted, let the roots of the Abantu people remain in the soil of their country."

On the labour system and the waste which it involves in all directions Mr. Evans speaks strongly. He reminds us that the native problem will not be solved by treating the native solely as an economic factor. Slipshod, half-hearted work is the result of a system under which a labourer is not expected to work continuously, and receives little instruction or even supervision. He is debarred from skilled labour, and there is little inducement for him to improve himself. There is no one remedy, in the judgment of our author, which will at all times settle the labour problem. A labour tax is undesirable, and he is of opinion that the scarcity of labour, about which so much is heard, will ultimately lead to progress on a sounder basis.

Mr. Evans is a strong advocate of education to raise the coloured race as a whole and build up their character:—

"The generally accepted dictum that the natives are children, and must

be treated as such, should be accepted with reservations. In their ignorance of conditions in which they now find themselves, and their utter inability to discern whither they are tending, they are children. What would be thought of the parents, guardians, authorities, who seeing their wards, with the fullest opportunities for mental and moral deterioration, the operation in full blast, denied them access to influences and instruction calculated to counteract these pernicious tendencies? Yet that is the position taken up by the objector." (P. 109.)

The Natal Native Commission recommended greater facilities for primary and especially agricultural education, and a Select Committee reported in 1908 on the same subject to much the same purport. For higher education there is no great demand at present, but provision should be made for those who desire it. Mr. Evans holds, as did some of the witnesses before the Select Committee, that educational plans, in view of the limited understanding of the native mind, should be provisional and subject to revision. Of the value of religious education as a potent means of elevating and civilising the natives there is no doubt among those who have studied the subject. We are reminded that missionary effort is the only force which in a direct way has attempted native education over a large part of South East Africa, and such efforts are estimated at a high value in this volume; it is described as essential constructive work which all well-wishers of the Abantu should encourage and support. One of its noblest results is to be seen in the great work accomplished in Basutoland.

We regret to find that on the question of the native vote, Mr. Evans dissents from the conclusions of the South African and Natal Commissions in favour of granting them a modified franchise, despite the success of the experiment in the Cape, which, as he admits, has not had "the maleficent results which might have been anticipated."

His reasons are, briefly, a dread of the mass of blacks swamping the whites; the unripeness of the race, as a whole, to be trusted with this power; their love for "floods of talk" rather than action; and, above all, the dread of competition with the white man, which the author thinks would drive out his altruistic sentiments, and by giving "equality of opportunity" lead him to hostility or even to fierce hatred. The last reason, based as it is upon race prejudice, does not seem a very exalted one, and is hardly in consonance with Mr. Evans' views as a whole. Again, it may well be that the desire for representation is not "natural" to the coloured man, but neither are many other aspirations natural to the native in his uncivilised state, which, nevertheless, all would desire to instil into him. The author admits from practical experience how little attention the just claims and interests of the unrepresented receive in Parliament, and the hardships which disfranchisement entails upon the educated Christian native. With Lord Selborne's proposals for a strict test for voters to be determined by a judicial tribunal, Mr. Evans has more sympathy, although all schemes

involving the government of the country by black and white together are, in his judgment, "fundamentally wrong."

It is of good augury for the treatment of the native problem on right lines that a book so thoughtful, and permeated by such a spirit, should have been written, and we close with a quotation embodying an appeal to the white man for a generous consideration of the legitimate demands of the black:—

(P. 121.) "The demand of the black man for better material conditions, contingent on his deserving and earning them, and the possible problems likely to arise out of that demand, are surely not going to make us forget all our obligations and responsibilities to him, and for all time deny him the opportunities we claim for ourselves and conceive to be our birthright? And have we so lost the self-reliance of the race that with the advantages of race, heredity, better environment, better training, we are going to protect ourselves by refusing to give just treatment to others? . . . Probably the answer would be: Leave them to themselves and let them evolve themselves, but do not help—implying a continuation of the present state of affairs. Bring disintegration and chaos into the life of the people, utterly bewilder them with your involved methods of life, teach them the worst that is in us, and then demand perfect conduct and accord with our ideas from a people kept down on a permanently lower plane? Destroy their social system and then refuse them any of the benefits of ours? Infinitely worse will happen to a race by such protection than by manfully undertaking our full responsibilities."

Squatters' Bill in South Africa.

GREAT dissatisfaction and alarm have been caused among the native population of South Africa by the announcement that a Squatters' Bill is to be introduced into the Union Parliament. It aims at diminishing the large amount of native squatting on farms, and is framed on the report of the Native Affairs Select Committee last year, which emphasized the evil of allowing natives to congregate in numbers on the land held by companies or individuals. This was said to retard development and to cause shortage of labour, especially farm labour. The Committee recommended legislation, and this Bill is the result. It enacts that a list of all natives living on farms is to be supplied for classification, and certificates are to be given to them as servants or squatters. A farmer living on his farm will have to pay 50s. per annum, or, if he is non-resident, 75s., for every native squatter, and all natives without certificates are to be evicted within one month. It seems to be admitted that the result of this will be that the farmers will at once evict the natives rather than pay the tax for them, and that thousands of natives will be driven off the land into the already crowded locations, or driven into industrial centres. The *Cape Times* has referred to the repressive nature of certain clauses, and the Bill has been widely condemned by native organizations. A recent Congress of natives

at Johannesburg dealt with the subject, and in Natal the Native Affairs Reform Committee and also the Natal Missionary Conference have pronounced against the measure.

A correspondent in Natal writes :

"The Bill is so oppressive that I think the Government is afraid what its effect may be. . . . The natives being without representation and helpless, I am afraid if the Bill becomes law the natives may be driven to resistance. Locations are over-crowded, and there is no room on the Crown lands of Natal, even if they could afford to pay the proposed taxation of £3 15s. in addition to the present hut tax of 14s. per annum."

DEATH OF MR. C. E. MORLAND.

We much regret to hear of the death in East Africa of Mr. C. Ernest Morland, who for five years acted as Assistant Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society when its offices were in the City. Mr. Morland left the Society in 1903 in order to take up work in connection with the Friends' Industrial Mission in the island of Pemba, where he has since been. His health has suffered much from the climate, and he has more than once been invalided home for considerable periods, and it is doubtless to the undermining of his constitution by fever that his death was due. Mr. Morland threw himself heartily into his work for the natives, and his premature death will be deeply regretted both by the Mission and by his friends in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris' Journey.

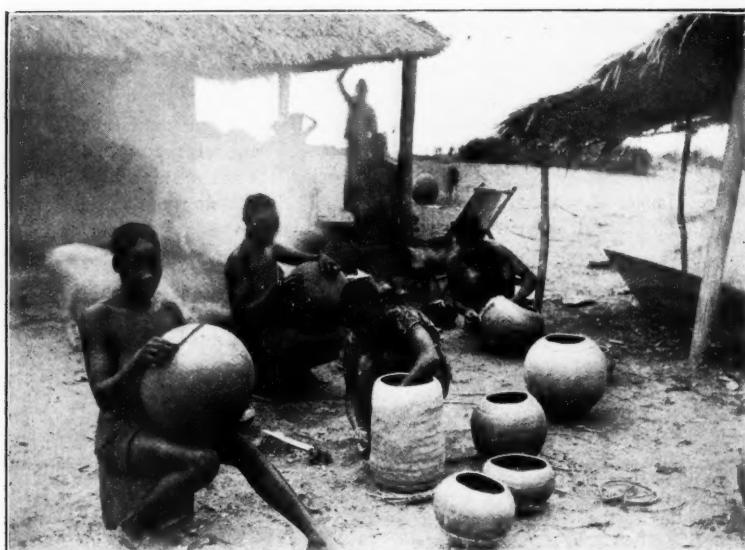
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

It is anticipated that on the return of our Organising Secretaries from their important journey of investigation in the Congo, many applications will be made for their services for lectures and addresses on their travels during the next autumn and winter season. It will be a great convenience if all such applications are forwarded as early as possible to the Secretary of the Society at Denison House, in order that prompt arrangements may be made with Mr. and Mrs. Harris and dates booked well in advance, to prevent disappointment.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Mrs. Harris has secured many hundreds of photographs of a nature interesting to scientific and commercial bodies as well as to philanthropic societies. As only a very few of these can be reproduced in the published reports and the issues of the quarterly journal, it is hoped that it may be possible soon after Mr. and Mrs. Harris' return to exhibit these views, duly classified, to all who may be interested.

Here are two of them which illustrate native industries :—



NATIVE POTTERY AT BOPOTO.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]



SUGAR CANE FOR SALE SPREAD OUT ON USESI PALM FRONDS USED FOR THATCHING.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris.]

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The Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society.

THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD AT THE

Westminster Palace Hotel,

VICTORIA STREET, S.W.,

on Tuesday, April 23rd, 1912,

at 3 p.m.

Sir T. FOWELL BUXTON, Bart., G.C.M.G. (President).
will take the Chair, and it is expected that the Rev. J. H. and
Mrs. HARRIS will have returned from their extensive journey
in the Congo and West Africa on behalf of the Society, and
will present a report on the results of their investigations,
which will be of special importance and interest at the present
juncture.

Sir ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE and other Speakers
are expected to take part.